

What's on today....

Art exhibition: A three-week long 'Thirteenth Young Artists Art Exhibition 2000' will begin. The show will remain open from 11 am to 7 pm daily till June 21. And from 3 pm to 7 pm on Fridays. Venue: Zainul gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: Inaugural ceremony at 5.30 pm.

Poetry reading: By Indian writer Sudeep Sen. Organiser: The High Commission of India. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.45 pm.

Iranian film show: On the last day of the Contemporary Iranian Film Festival, Zahar Raihan Film Society will screen two films — 'Close Up' and 'The Taste of Cherry', both directed by Abbas Kiarostami. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30 pm and 6.15 pm.

Trade fair: USAID funded JOBS program is organising a 10-day trade fair. Venue: Offices' Club. Time: 10 am to 8 pm daily till June 10.

Seminar: On 'Potential long term health impacts of the Bangladesh Arsenic Calamity', organised by ICDDR,B and Bangladesh Environmental Society. Prof Allan H Smith of University of California, USA, will present the keynote paper. Venue: Clinical Science Division Conference Room, ICDDR,B. Time: 3.30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion: On 'Social Responsibility in Protecting Human Rights', organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC). Venue: Khulgaon Model College. Time: 3.30 pm.

Seminar: On 'Total quality and excellence in Education: Role of students quality control circles', organised by Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management. Venue: BETS Centre, House-55, Road-4A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 21.3 degree Celsius at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.42 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.3	22.5
Chittagong	33.5	26.1
Rajshahi	32.8	23.5
Khulna	35.7	23.0
Barisal	34.6	21.3
Sylhet	30.2	22.6
Cox's Bazar	34.2	22.5

HERE and THERE

Training programme on human rights

A week-long training programme for the trainers on human rights ended at the Bangladesh Bar Council (BBC) yesterday, reports BSS.

Senior Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury distributed certificates among the 15 trainers.

Legal Education Training Institute (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Council conducted the training course.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice B. B. Roy Chowdhury expressed the hope that the

training programme would help safeguard and protect human rights in their respective areas. He said the lawyers have an ample opportunity to uphold the humanity as they deal with the problems of the commoners.

Qatar Bangladesh Brotherhood Society

Qatar Bangladesh Brotherhood Society held an emergency meeting at a city hotel on May 27, says a press release.

Chaired by Mahmud U. Tuhin, the meeting nominated the Ambassador of Qatar as the chief patron of the society.

It also decided to organise a seminar in the city in July.



Antonio de Souza Menezes, Ambassador of the European Commission to Bangladesh and Dr. Faruque Ahmed, President of Proshika, signing an agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the city yesterday.

Terrorists hurl bomb on police van: 5 injured

By Staff Correspondent

Five people, including two policemen were injured when terrorists hurled home-made bombs on a police van in a bid to snatch two arrested muggers in the city's Tipu Sultan Road yesterday.

The van was carrying the muggers from CMM's court, police said.

The arrested muggers were injured when the bombs exploded. They were identified as Mahbul Hossain Mostafa and Dulul Mian. An unidentified pedestrian was also injured in the blast, police said.

Earlier in the morning, the two muggers were beaten by up a mob as they tried to snatch away valuables from pedestrians at Sayedabad in the city, police added.

They were later handed over to police. Police sent muggers to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later produced them before the CMM's court for remand, police said.

Fiji: Vajpayee

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expected to meet in London on June 6 to set up a 'range of markers' which the new regime in Fiji must subscribe to, failing which the Commonwealth could impose economic sanctions and invoke the Harare Declaration on protection of democracy in its member-country.

There is, however, recognition not only in New Delhi but also in Canberra that taking economic measures against Fiji is easier said than done. The Fijian economy is heavily dependent on imports from Australia and New Zealand and any economic or trade blockade of Fiji could badly hurt the ethnic Indian community there as majority of them are traders.

The thrust of the Commonwealth initiative in Fiji would be to ensure that there is no exodus of Fiji Indians and that there was no restoration of the 1990 Constitution of that country, which institutionalized racism by debaring Fijians of Indian origins from holding high public offices.

Bangladeshi food and cultural show in Hanoi

The first ever Bangladeshi food and cultural show was held in Hanoi on May 27 and 28. The festival was organised by the Bangladesh Embassy in Vietnam with the support of some local sponsors, says a press release.

The first event was held at the Hanoi Horizon Hotel on May 27. A packed audience enjoyed the cultural performance and the Bangladeshi cuisine immensely. Chiu Thu Quynh, Member of the National Assembly of Vietnam and president of the Vietnam Dance Artists Association, was present as special guest.

The cultural performance included traditional folk dances and classical dances presented by Shamim Ara Nipa, Minu Haque, Anisul Islam Hero and Tuhin Ara Karim Auppi.

Another cultural show was held at Hanoi's prestigious Opera House the next day. Minister of Culture and Information of Vietnam Nguyen Khoa Dieu was the chief guest. The Bangladeshi dancers enthralled the audience with their performance.

Power: 2 accords signed

Two separate agreements involving Tk 262.85 crore were signed in Dhaka yesterday between the Power Development Board (PDB) and Technoprom-export of Russia to improve the power sector, reports BSS.

Secretary PDB Mohammad Siraj Uddin and Director of Technoprom-export (rehabilitation and maintenance) Dimitry M Krasov signed the agreement on Ghorashal power plant on behalf of their respective organisations, says a PDB press release.

Director of Power Plants and Construction of Technoprom-export Valery A Zaitsev signed the agreement on Siddirganj Thermal Power Plant.

As per the first agreement, the 1 and 2 units of Ghorashal Power Plant with capacity of 55 megawatts each would be rehabilitated and modernised while as per second agreement electrical and mechanical equipment, among other things, would be installed for the Siddirganj 210 megawatt Thermal Power Plant project on turn-key basis.

PDB chairman Quamrul Islam Siddique and other senior officials were present at the function.

Proshika gets Tk 235-cr grant from EC

Proshika has received 47 million euro equivalent to Tk 235 crore from European Commission under two separate grants for Proshika's current five-year plan entitled 'Towards a Poverty-Free Society' and micro-credit rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh, says a press release.

EC Ambassador in Bangladesh Antonio de Souza Menezes and Proshika President Dr. Qazi Faruque Ahmed signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at a simple ceremony at the EC Mission here yesterday.

Under a 41 million euro grant, the EC will provide financial assistance for the implementation of Proshika's programmes which will help over two million households come out of poverty.

Under another 7 million euro grant, the EC will help Proshika run its micro-credit rehabilitation in the country, particularly to recoup losses from various income-generating projects of the organised poor which were damaged by the 1998 devastating flood.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Antonio de Souza said EC would continue its efforts to improve the living standard of the poor of Bangladesh. 'EC's cardinal principle of providing grants is to ensure transparency and accountability of EC tax payers' money', he said, adding that 'Proshika by dint of its performances has become one of our great partners'.

Laura Garagnani and Paolo Craviolatti of EC delegation and Mahbubul Karim, Shah Nawaz, Dr. Jyoti P Dutta and Nargis Jahan Banu of Proshika were present on the occasion.



Obituary

Shahjahan Kabir, founder chairman of Export-Import Bank Ltd, died at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday. He was 58, says a press release.

He left behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Born in 1942, Kabir hailed from Feni district. He studied in Dhaka from Singapore tonight. His *najam-e-janaza* will be held at Baiful Mukarram Mosque after Juma prayers tomorrow.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard.



Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaking at a discussion on late president Ziaur Rahman at the Engineers Institute auditorium yesterday. BNP organised the event to mark the 19th death anniversary of its founder. — Star photo

More organisations condemn arrest of Ajker Kagoj reporter

By Staff Correspondent

The president and the general secretary of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association in a joint statement protested the illegal arrest of Aminur Rahman Taj and misbehaviour with the reporters.

The association expressed their solidarity with the on-going programmes of Crime Reporters Association. They said that they would not take any snap of any police activities.

Journalists are being attacked by police to discharge their duties, as journalists are writing about irregularities and corruption of police personnel.

Photojournalists were attacked on several occasions without any provocation, they said.

Taj was arrested following a report titled 'Bribery in transfer and appointment of police' with Ajker Kagoj.

Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association demanded unconditional apology from the DMP Commissioner Matinur Rahman and also his immediate removal.

RSF

Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), a Paris-based international organisation for reporters, sent a letter to Bangladesh's Home Minister on Tuesday calling for dropping of charges framed against the Ajker Kagoj crime reporter.

Aminur Rahman Taj.

A press release issued by RSF said yesterday that the letter sent to the minister had also called for cancellation of arrest warrant against the editor of the same newspaper Kazi Shahed Ahmed.

Besides, various socio-cultural and political organisations also issued separate press releases yesterday protesting the incident of arrest of the reporter without warrant and framing charges against the reporter and editor of the newspaper.

These organisations include, among others, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Institute of Democratic Rights, and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

JUJA

Meanwhile our JU correspondent adds: Members of the Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) staged a sit-in on the campus yesterday to register their protest against arrest of a reporter of the Ajker Kagoj without any warrant.

JUJA members also brought a silent procession and paraded through the entire varsity campus demanding withdrawal of charges framed against the reporter.

29 rescued while being trafficked to India

By Staff Correspondent

BENAPOLE, May 31: BDR jawans rescued 29 Bangladeshi nationals, including women and children, yesterday from Chiba frontier while they were being trafficked to India, reports UNB.

The victims were tempted with jobs in India in exchange for handsome money, BDR sources said.

Of the rescued people, 16 were women, eight men and five children. They were handed over to Sharsa police station. A case was filed.

Contraband worth Tk 23.70 lakh seized in Ctg

By Staff Correspondent

A squad of Bangladesh Rifles Chittagong Sector seized a truck loaded with contraband worth about Tk 23.70 lakh and arrested three people for their alleged involvement in carrying it.

The arrested were identified as Mohammed Khorshed Alam, Ahmed Nabi and Abul Bashar, a BDR press release said yesterday.

The squad along with a magistrate stopped the truck at Khandakerpara on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Road and seized the truck and arrested three people who were travelling with the truck.



Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding a ban on Jamaat and Shibir. — Star photo

Speaker: Death of MP

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representative.

'How dare they want a written complaint? An MP died without treatment. There are press reports. We issued a statement demanding inquiry. Do they need any further complaint?' an angry Monirul Haq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party (M-M) questioned.

'We are waiting for party secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju to return from abroad. We will give them a good lesson,' said Chowdhury. Shocked by the loss of Bhutto who had been his political comrade since student life.

He blasted the lapses like keeping Bhutto first 35 minutes at the NICDH without any treatment, not attending by any senior physician, not taking any action to avert the second heart attack and not informing the higher authorities and party leaders.

The JP leader also flayed those responsible for not taking proper care at the clinic where Bhutto and a minor operation was taken to the NICDH. 'Bhutto had been sweating at the clinic since Sunday night. But they didn't perform any ECG or send him to NICDH after wasting a long time.'

Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, brother-in-law of late parliamentarian and former upazila chairman of Mehendiganj, said they were awaiting decision of Bhutto's party to lodge an official complaint with the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital.

After he had the first heart attack, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was taken to the NICDH from the

clinic at 2.25 pm on Monday and died of a second stroke at 6.30 pm. Despite repeated call, reports say, CCU chief Prof ARK Mohibullah didn't visit him.

Prof Mohibullah in a written statement to the NICDH authorities admitted that he didn't attend the MP at the hospital but defended himself saying there was no lack of treatment as he guided his juniors over telephone.

He said that he was not present at the NICDH when Bhutto died.

He said campaign should be stepped up in each educational institution of the country in order to create awareness among the students about injurious effects of tobacco.

Nasim urged the film stars not to take part in tobacco advertisements.

Sectt declared tobacco-free zone

Bangladesh Secretariat has been declared tobacco-free zone from today, reports UNB.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim announced it yesterday while addressing a discussion marking the World No-tobacco Day at the National Museum auditorium in the city.

Drug and tobacco prevention organisation 'MANAS' organised the function.

The minister called upon the officials and employees of the secretariat not to enter its premises with cigarette for building the secretariat a tobacco-free zone.

He said campaign should be stepped up in each educational institution of the country in order to create awareness among the students about injurious effects of tobacco.

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Chhatra Moitree demands trial of Golam Azam

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree yesterday demanded of the government to scrap the political rights of the war criminals and communal forces including the Jamaat-e-Islami and Chhatra Shibir, reports BSS.

Student organisations observed the 12th death anniversary of the gruesome murder of Zamil Akhtar Ratan, the then President of the Rajshahi Medical College unit, who was killed by the communal and fanatic forces.

A press release said, Zamil Akhtar Ratan was killed on this day in 1988 when student community was fighting the then Gen. Ershad's autocratic government to resist passage of the State Religion Bill.

'Shaheed Zamil Day' was observed yesterday through day-long programmes including hoisting of black flags at the central office of the Chhatra Moitree, wearing of black badges by activists of the organisation all over the country and protest rallies and processions in the city demanding the trial of the Shaheed Zamil Akhtar Ratan by placing wreaths at the alter of the Central Shaheed Minar and visiting Shaheed Zamil Smriti Pathagar here this morning.

Besides, the Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya also paid tributes to the Shaheed Zamil Akhtar Ratan by placing wreaths at the alter of the Central Shaheed Minar and visiting Shaheed Zamil Smriti Pathagar here this morning.

Addressing a rally in front of the Press Club, the student leaders demanded trial of Golam Azam as war criminal and banning of the activities of Jamaat-Shibir.

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Beyond the Boundary

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ent career, but it seems enough to cement a place in the side. Akram Khan, he of the burly frame and certainly the most genial of giants in international cricket today, was a man possessed. He treated the bowling with disdain, plundering a quickfire 64 in less time than it takes to tell the tale. While he was there with Naimur, the malnourished Indian, bowling went for over ten runs an over for quite a while.

For India, it was certainly a nightmare out in the middle while this pair was at the crease. It is not often that one sees the improbable spectacle of eight bowlers being asked to turn their arms over in a one-day match. Not certainly when you have as the opposition, the newest and the weakest kids on the block. The Indian skipper was not let down by his charges at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. He was let down by the selectors back in India, even before he boarded the flight to Dhaka. If this indeed is any indication the Indian batting machine will really have to be in overdrive, and deliver above and well beyond the call of duty. On a wicket such as the one in Dhaka, Ganguly's bowling armory is likely to cut a very sorry picture indeed.

Bangladesh made the most out of a toothless attack. Aggarwal, who is now somewhat overrated, and Kumar, who looked perplexed and is clearly out of sorts at this level, exposed the folly of leaving the established opening pair of fast bowlers back at home. Come back, Smith and Prasad, all is forgiven! It is only in India really, that selectors overthink themselves to death. Two fast bowlers in their early thirties are being rested, one can only guess for what purpose. In the West Indies and Pakistan, bowlers like Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Wasim Akram and Waqar Yousif, all older than S&P, are still spitting venom all over the world where cricket is played, as well as bowling at twice the speed of light. Ganguly will need to ponder long and hard, when he runs into the like of the Aravindas, the Jayasuriyas, the Anwars and the Inzamams.

At the moment, the newest development in Indian cricket is gradually becoming more and more obvious. Sachin Tendulkar's job descriptions are getting increasingly more elaborate. It is not enough that he should continue to remain India's mainstay in batting. HE NEEDS TO TAKE WICKETS AS WELL. The others are, well, here on a jolly. Not for the first time certainly. Tendulkar once again accounted for two top order batsmen.

When India batted however, there was a plan in mind and it was carried out ruthlessly, no prisoners. But moving over Sachin, the Prince of Calcutta is about to ascend the throne as the best batsman in the side. Dhaka has been a happy hunting ground for Ganguly, and he did not let this opportunity go to waste. Another hundred was chalked up as a matter of course, and regally. A hundred run partnership materialised out of nowhere with Azharuddin, who drove home the fact that old age and treachery can still triumph over youth and enthusiasm.

There indeed was the quintessential difference between the Indian and Bangladesh bowling. One was mediocre yet experienced to an extent. The other was pathetically mediocre and very, very inexperienced. The wisdom of asking a slow left arm spinner to open the bowling with only two men in the outfield, against the best opening partnership in international cricket, also exposed the thought patterns of an inexperienced Bangladesh think tank as well. All in all, a lethal overdose of self-debilitating and self-negating pills swallowed by the Bangladesh team when they went out to field. All the hard work that the batsmen put in were brushed aside by a supremely confident pair of batsmen, who simply set the tone for what was to come later.

It is getting to be a monotonous duty but nevertheless, here we go again. Bangladesh are on a learning curve. They had batted well, surely. But one needs to be able to chew gum and cross the street at the same time. The only saving grace is the fact that under different circumstances, on another day, against another team in this competition, the same applies to India as well.

View From The Gully

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millions of cricket fans would have thought of a different story. Fools rush where angels fear to tread. At no stage of the game did it appear that the home team was keen enough to defend their modest total. Rather, it seemed that they were too happy to score so 'many' runs against so powerful an opponent that they do not have to worry that much about defending it.

The captaincy was so unimaginative that when two left-handers, Ganguly and Hemang Badani, were at the crease, two left-arm spinners were engaged to bowl. When Bangladesh were batting, Ganguly used eight bowlers including himself and got the needed breakthrough with Tendulkar. Aminul Islam himself could have bowled in tandem with Naimur Rahman, another right-arm off-spinner, to Ganguly and Badani.

However, the bowling looked extremely ordinary, and the debutante Badani even had a good batting practice. Handling of the bowlers was as naive as it could be and a lack of thoughtfulness was very pronounced.

Neither Ganguly nor Tendulkar are newcomers to this ground. They must have been very delighted when poor Rafique came in to bowl. He was murdered by Ganguly in his very first over, but his misery did not end there. Surprisingly though, the Bangladesh captain persisted with his policy to use Rafique although his second over produced another six. The sky was cloudy, but the rains did not come. Ganguly had it all calculated in case Duckworth-Lewis factor intervenes, and so he launched a blistering attack to be on the safe side. Sachin supported him with a hurricane.

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